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House of Representatives

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN ED CASE OF HAWAII TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2005

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALU LIKE, INC.

Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to recognize and congratulate a remarkable organization, Alu Like, Inc., as it marks its 30th anniversary of service to my Hawai'i's Native Hawaiian community.

Alu Like, which means "striving (working) together," was established in 1975 to promote social and economic self-sufficiency among Native Hawaiians. The organization was given its name by kupuna Mary Kawena Pukui, and its motto, "E alu like mai kakou, e na `oiwi o Hawai'i" (Let us work together natives of Hawai'i), by kupuna Edith Kanaka`ole.

Now with 238 employees located throughout the State of Hawai'i (Hawai'i, Kaua'i, Lana'i, Maui, Moloka'i, and O'ahu), it has grown into one of Hawai'i's most successful service agencies and has been instrumental in improving the quality of life for our Native Hawaiian community from early childhood to kupuna (elderly) programs. These include a range of services and activities such as economic development, business assistance, employment preparation, training, library services, and educational and childcare services for families with young children, all tailored to the specific often unique, needs of Hawai'i's indigenous people. Current services include:

- Ho`okahua--Early Childhood;
- Ho`olo kahi--High Risk Reduction;
- Ho`omanea `O'iwi--Education and Employment;
- Ka Ipu Ka`eo--Education and Training;
- Kulia Like--Financial Literacy and
- Kumu Kahi--Elderly Services.

Throughout its thirty years, Alu Like has served more than 100,000 people, and continues to form strong partnerships with other service providers. To increase its outreach to our community, Alu Like has also worked closely and collaboratively to expand its commitment to education and language preservation through its Native Hawaiian Library and to community service through its AmeriCorps Project.

As always, the success of any organization requires strong and sustained leadership from its staff and board of directors, and Alu Like has benefited greatly from a whole generation of such leaders. These include its visionaries--Myron "Pinky" Thompson, Alvin Shim, James Bacon, Yukio Naito, David Peters, and Winona Ellis Rubin--and directors over the years, as well as its Presidents/CEOs, who have included: Winona Ellis Rubin, Myron "Pinky" Thompson, David Helela, Masaru Oshiro, S. Haunani Apoliona, and Tara Lulani Arquette.

Under the current leadership of Mervina K.M. Cash-Kaeo, President/CEO, I have every confidence that Alu Like will continue to be a leading service organization in its promotion of social and economic self-sufficiency for all Native Hawaiians. But today is a time for us simply to reflect on the great success of our Alu Like `ohana (family), all of whom deserve our praise and commendation for a job truly well done. Mahalo, and aloha!